

II.

RETTILI E BATRACI

PER

G. A. BOULENGER



The small collection of Reptiles and Batrachians made by Capt. Bottego, the working out of which has been entrusted to me by the Marquis G. Doria, President of the Italian Geographical Society, is one of special interest both from the point of view of the Geographical distribution, and from the unexpected percentage of new species it has brought to light. With a few exceptions the specimens are well preserved. Capt. Bottego may be congratulated on the success of his efforts in this department, and if the other groups of animals collected by him, and which I understand are at present being worked out by various specialists under the direction of the Marquis Doria, furnish similar results, he will not have to regret the pains he has taken.

## REPTILES

### Chelonians

#### 1. *Sternothaerus bottegi*, sp. n. (Plates I and II).

Carapace once and a half as long as broad, keelless, deeply sulcate between the vertebral and costal shields, with deep notches between the posterior marginals; second and third vertebral shields considerably longer than broad; third and fourth vertebral shields with a nodose prominence posteriorly. Front lobe of plastron strongly hinged; intergular shields large, once and two thirds as long as broad; suture between the humeral

shields as long as that between the anals and a little shorter than the interangular shield; the length of the outer border of the pectoral shield exceeds that of the humeral and equals the median suture of the humeral and pectoral shields; suture between the abdominal shields much longer than that between the femorals, as long as the front lobe of the plastron. Head large; snout very short; upper jaw neither hooked nor bicuspid; the length of the suture between the frontal shields equals the width of the interorbital space. Carapace dark brown, marginals black beneath; plastron yellow, bordered with black; head pale brown above, speckled with black.

Length of shell 21 centim.

A single specimen from Bardera.

This Tortoise is intermediate between *S. sinuatus* and *S. nigricans*. It agrees with the former in the serrated posterior border of the carapace, with the latter in the absence of notch and cusps to the beak; and differs from both in the more elongate second and third vertebral shields.

## Lizards

### 2. *Hemidactylus jubensis*, sp. n. (Plate III, fig. 1).

Snout rounded, longer than the distance between the eye and the ear-opening, once and a half the diameter of the orbit; forehead with a rhomboidal concavity; ear-opening oval, oblique, half the diameter of the eye. Body and limbs moderate. Digits moderate, inner well developed; 6 or 7 lamellae under the inner digits, 9 or 10 under the third and fourth. Head covered with granules of unequal size; rostral four-sided, not twice as broad as deep, with median cleft above; nostril pierced between the rostral and four or five small scales; 10 or 11 upper labials; 8 or 9 lower labials; symphysial large, pentagonal, twice as long as the adjacent labials, followed by a pair of large chin-shields forming a median suture; one or two smaller chin-shields on each side. Upper surface of body covered with small granules intermixed with moderately large, round or oval, feebly keeled

tubercles irregularly disposed; belly covered with imbricate, roundish, smooth scales. Male with a short angular series of 8 præanal pores. Tail depressed, tapering, covered with minute scales and transverse series of large, smooth, flat tubercles; below with a series of transversely dilated shields. Pale brown above, with five or six darker bars across the back and a lateral series of more or less confluent dark spots; a dark streak on each side of the head, passing through the eye; tail with dark cross-bars; lower parts white.

	♂	♀
Total length . . . . .	millim. 132	104
Head . . . . .	» 20	16
Width of head . . . . .	» 15	11
Fore limb . . . . .	» 23	17
Hind limb . . . . .	» 30	22
Tail . . . . .	» 65 (1)	50

Two specimens from the Upper Ganale.

This species is not closely allied to any known form. In its technical characters it agrees best with *H. turcicus*, from which it is at once distinguished by its feebly keeled and irregularly arranged dorsal tubercles.

### 3. *Lygodactylus picturatus*, PTRS.

A single, half-grown specimen from the Upper Ganale.

### 4 *Platypholis fasciata*, BLGR.

Proc. Zool. Soc. 1890, p. 81, pl. VIII, fig. 2.

A single specimen of this curious Gecko from the Upper Ganale. The type is from Mombasa.

(1) Tail reproduced.

5. *Agama vaillanti*, sp. n. (Plate III, fig. 2).

Head convex, slightly longer than broad. Nostril tubular, directed upwards and backwards, in the posterior part of the nasal, on the canthus rostralis. Upper head-scales rather larger and smooth; no elongate scale on the snout; occipital enlarged; sides of head near the ear, and neck with groups of long spines, the longest of which equal the diameter of the eye-opening; these spines partly concealing the eye-opening. Throat much plicate; no gular pouch. Body rather depressed, with very large, imbricate, mucronate and strongly keeled scales, the keels converging towards the vertebral line; 27 scales on the vertebral line between the origin of the fore limbs and the origin of the hind limbs; no nuchal or dorsal crest; ventral scales small, smooth; 64 scales round the middle of the body. The adpressed hind limb reaches the eye; tibia as long as the skull; third finger a little longer than fourth; fourth toe slightly longer than third, fifth extending as far as first. Tail thrice as long as the distance from gular fold to vent, rounded; the scales as large as the dorsals. Male with a row of anal pores. Yellowish brown above, the vertebral line yellowish; two series of dark transverse spots along the back, enclosing some lighter spots; anterior part of head with three dark brown cross-bars, the first and third interrupted in the middle, the second uninterrupted and extending across the forehead and supraocular regions; a dark brown streak from below the eye to the commissure of the jaws, and another from behind the eye to above the tympanum; two blackish-brown  $\Lambda$ -shaped markings on the nape; limbs and tail with brown cross-bars; lower parts white.

Total length . . . . .	millim.	240
Head . . . . .	"	21
Width of head . . . . .	"	19
Body . . . . .	"	51
Fore limb . . . . .	"	41
Hind limb . . . . .	"	60
Tail . . . . .	"	160

A single male specimen from Ogaden. Also a very young specimen from between the wells of Laffarugh and Aberiò.

I have named this species in honour of Prof. L. Vaillant, the lizard described being evidently very closely allied to his *A. rueppellii*, from Somali-land. Thanks to his courtesy, I have been able to compare the specimen with one of the types (♂) of *A. rueppellii* and I find it differs in having the body less elongate, the scales smaller, and no trace of a nuchal crest.

6. **Agama doriae**, BLGR.

A single half-grown specimen from between the wells of Laffarugh and Aberiò (Ogaden).

This specimen is anomalous in having 12 upper labials on one side; the other side shows the normal number (9).

7. **Eremias mucronata**, BLANF.

Three specimens from between the wells of Laffarugh and Aberiò.

### Snakes

8. **Typhlops blanfordii**, BLGR.

A single specimen from the Upper Ganale.

9. **Boodon lemniscatus**, D. & B.

A single young specimen from the Upper Ganale. Sc. 21; V. 198; C. 42.

10. **Boodon lineatus**, D. & B.

A single young specimen from the Upper Ganale. Sc. 31; V. 242; C. 58.

11. **Zamenis brevis**, sp. n. (Plate III, fig. 3).

Snout obtuse, feebly projecting. Rostral once and a half as broad as deep, the portion visible from above measuring one

fourth its distance from the frontal; internasals as long as the præfrontals; frontal broader than the supraocular, once and two fifths as long as broad, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; loreal as long as deep; one præocular, not in contact with the frontal, with a subocular below it; two postoculars; temporals 2 + 2; nine upper labials, fifth and sixth entering the eye; four or five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields; posterior chin-shields as long as the anterior and separated from each other by two or three series of scales. Scales smooth, in 19 rows. Ventrals obtusely angulate laterally, 159; anal divided; subcaudals 76. Pale greyish above, with four longitudinal series of pale grey-brown spots, the two vertebral series formed of larger spots which are partly confluent; a blackish spot below the eye; lower parts white.

Total length 200 millim.; tail 47.

A single young specimen from Ogaden.

The short body, with its low number of shields, characterizes this species, which is otherwise much like *Z. ventrimaculatus* and *Z. rhodorhachis*. With the exception of the long-tailed *Z. korros*, no other Old-World *Zamenis* is known to have fewer than 170 ventrals (*Z. gemonensis*); and the two nearest allies of *Z. brevis* have 194 to 211 and 214 to 262 respectively.

12. ***Psammophis punctulatus***, D. & B. (Plate IV, fig. 1).

This handsome snake was described in 1854 from a single specimen stated to be from Arabia; it has since been rediscovered at Inhambane, Mozambique (Bianconi), at Taita, E. Africa (Peters) and in Somali-land (Boettger). The following description is drawn up from two specimens obtained at Ogaden by Capt. Bottego.

Head very narrow; snout once and a half to once and two thirds as long as the diameter of the eye, rounded, moderately prominent. Rostral a little broader than deep, visible from above; internasals broader than long, nearly half as long as the præfrontals; frontal very narrow except in front, nearly twice as



long as broad, as long as or a little longer than its distance from the end of the snout, as long as or slightly shorter than the parietals; nostril between two nasals; loreal nearly thrice as long as deep; one præocular, in contact with the frontal and with the third, fourth, and fifth labials; two postoculars; temporals 2 + 2 or 2 + 3; nine upper labials, fifth and sixth entering the eye, sixth largest; four or five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are shorter than the posterior. Scales in 17 rows. Ventrals 177-185; anal divided; subcaudals 146-147. The adult is straw yellow above, tinged with green on the sides, the head and nape olive-grey speckled with black; three black stripes along the body, the median broadest and bifurcating on the neck, its branches extending, as brown streaks, to the end of the snout after passing through the eyes; a black median streak on the nape; sides closely dotted with black, like the ventrals and subcaudals, which are pale yellowish olive. The younger specimen differs in the ground colour, which is a brownish white above and olive grey beneath, the head reddish; and the dots on the sides and belly are fewer.

The adult specimen is a male (V. 177; C. 147) and measures 1460 millim.; tail 520. The younger specimen (V. 185; C. 146) is also a male and measures 840 millim., tail 310.

13. **Tarbophis obtusus**, REUSS.

A single young male specimen from Ogaden. Eight upper labials (3<sup>d</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> entering the eye) on the right side, nine (4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> entering the eye) on the left. Scales in 22 rows; ventrals 213; anal divided; subcaudals 80.

This species is the type of the genus *Telescopus*, Wagl., which, in my opinion, should be united with *Tarbophis*, Fleischm. *Telescopus* being preoccupied in zoology, I adopt the latter name.

14. **Atractaspis microlepidota**, GTHR.

A single male specimen from Ogaden, measuring 740 millim. (tail 60). Sc. 27; V. 237; A. 1; C. 30, single.

15. **Atractaspis leucomelas**, sp. n. (Plate IV, fig. 2).

Snout very short. Portion of rostral seen from above nearly as long as its distance from the frontal; suture between the internasals half as long as that between the præfrontals; frontal large, once and two fifths as long as broad, much longer than its distance from the end of the snout, as long as the parietals; supraocular separating the præocular from the frontal; one præ- and one postocular; temporals small, scale-like, 2 + 3; six upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye, fourth largest; three lower labials in contact with the chin-shields. Body very long and slender; scales in 23 rows; ventrals 243; anal entire; subcaudals 27, 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> divided, rest single. Black above, with a white vertebral line, occupying one and two half rows of scales; ventrals and subcaudals, and four outer series of scales on each side white; neck entirely black; head white, with a black blotch covering the nasals, internasals, præfrontals, frontal, supraoculars, and parietals.

Total length 575 millim.; tail 40.

A single female specimen from Ogaden.

BATRACHIANS

1. **Rana delalandii**, D. & B.

A single specimen from between the wells of Laffarugh and Aberiò.

2. **Rana mascareniensis**, D. & B.

Several specimens. Auata and between the wells of Laffarugh and Aberiò.

3. **Arthroleptis bottegi**, sp. n. (Plate IV, fig. 3).

Head moderate, a little longer than broad; snout rounded, a little shorter than the diameter of the orbit; canthus rostralis rounded; tympanum distinct, three fifths the diameter of the

eye. Fingers and toes blunt; first and second fingers equal; toes half webbed; a small conical tubercle on the inner side of the tarsus; a small, oval inner and a very small, round outer metatarsal tubercle. The tibio-tarsal articulation reaches the eye. A few very small warts on the snout and on the back; lower parts smooth. Olive above, with darker spots; a large triangular dark spot between the eyes; limbs with dark cross-bars; lower parts whitish; lower lip bordered with black spots.

From snout to vent 31 millim.

A single specimen from the Auata.

4. **Cassina senegalensis**, D. & B.

A single, badly preserved specimen from the Auata.

5. **Bufo blanfordii**, BLGR.

A single specimen from between the wells of Laffarugh and Aberiò.

## EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES

—

## I.

*Sternothaerus bottegi*. Upper view.

## II.

*Sternothaerus bottegi*. Lower view.

## III.

Fig. 1. *Hemidactylus jubensis*.

» 1a.       "       "       Chin-shields.

» 2. *Agama vaillanti*.» 3. *Zamenis brevis*.

» 3a.       "       "       Upper view of head.

» 3b.       "       "       Side view of head.

## IV.

Fig. 1. *Psammophis punctulatus*.» 2. *Atractaspis leucomelas*.» 3. *Arthroleptis bottegi*.

—————